



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Tuesday, 22 November 2005

HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL; HEALTH PRACTITIONERS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (4.09 pm), continuing: As I was saying before I was interrupted a couple of weeks ago, the bill that is being debated cognate with the Health Services Amendment Bill is the Health Practitioners Legislation Amendment Bill 2005.

The tragedies that have occurred in Queensland recently as a result of the abuse of area-of-need declarations have made it clear that the state government needs to look more seriously at how to find a balance between ensuring that areas with a genuine need are provided with more staff and that the staff who are sent to these areas are sufficiently qualified. The cutting of corners that occurred in hiring staff to cover the areas of need declared by Queensland Health caused serious health problems for Queenslanders. Hopefully the Office of Health Practitioners Registration Boards will take an objective and even-handed approach to deciding areas of need.

I will be supporting this provision, but I can only hope that, with \$330,000 in annual funding, the Office of Health Practitioners Registration Boards will be able to alleviate the problems that we have experienced with Queensland Health toeing the government's line in nominating areas of need.

The member for Moggill alluded to the fact that 20 per cent of Queensland Health's doctor staff are employed under special provisions. The truth is that in the long term this is simply not acceptable. The government needs to drive recruitment and spend the required money effectively to cover all bases in our state's health system. The conclusion that can be drawn from all of this is that it is a long road back for public health in Queensland, and creating more bureaucracy will only create more problems.

While we will be supporting the Health Practitioners Legislation Amendment Bill 2005, we encourage the health minister to not look upon the provision to delegate areas of need as a long-term solution to a long-term problem.